

What is claims is:

1 1. A method for presenting information about
2 attendance at a gathering place, comprising:
3 imaging at least two scenes of a space to produce
4 first and second images;
5 calculating from a result of said imaging at
6 least one of a number of persons in said scenes and a value
7 dependent thereon;
8 generating an output indicating said at least one
9 of a number of persons in said scenes and a value dependent
10 thereon.

1 2. A method as in claim 1, wherein said output
2 includes a display showing a map of said gathering place.

1 3. A method as in claim 2, wherein said map
2 display is overlaid with a graphic indication of a result
3 of said step of calculating.

1 4. A method as in claim 1, wherein said step of
2 generating includes generating an output at an exhibition-
3 like event for use by visitors thereof.

1 5. A visitor information system, comprising:
2 a controller with an input adapted to receive
3 video data responsive to multiple scenes of visitors of an

4 exhibition-like event, each scene being of a different
 5 respective physical location of said exhibition-like event;
 6 said controller being programmed to generate an
 7 output on a display indicating a current density of
 8 occupancy of said space responsively to said video data;
 9 said display being located at an exhibition-like
 10 event for use by visitors thereof.

1 6. A system as in claim 5, wherein said output
 2 includes a map display with an overlay indicating a density
 3 or relative density of said visitors at said different
 4 respective physical locations.

1 7. A system as in claim 5, wherein said output
 2 includes a text or audio message indicating a recommended
 3 one of said respective physical locations.

1 8. A system as in claim 7, wherein said
 2 controller is further programmed to accept an input
 3 indicating a preference relating to density of visitors at
 4 a location.

1 9. A system as in claim 5, further comprising a
 2 pan-tilt-zoom (PTZ) video camera, said video data being
 3 derived from said PTZ video camera, said controller being
 4 programmed to operate said PTZ video camera.

1 10. A system as in claim 5, wherein said output
2 is a wireless signal readable by a portable terminal.

1 11. A method of providing guidance to visitors
2 of a space, comprising the steps of:

3 receiving input at a controller providing real-
4 time data responsive to a density of visitors at various
5 locations in a space;

6 calculating at said controller a local variation
7 in density or movement of visitors at various locations in
8 said space;

9 outputting at a terminal, accessible to visitors
10 to said space, data indicating said local variation in
11 density or movement of said visitors, whereby visitors to
12 said space may obtain information permitting them to choose
13 among said various locations.

1 12. A method as in claim 11, wherein step of
2 outputting includes generating a map of said space overlaid
3 with a graphic representation of said local variation.

1 13. A method as in claim 11, wherein said step
2 of outputting includes generating a wireless signal
3 containing a result of said step of calculating.

1 14. A method as in claim 11, further comprising
2 a step of controlling a pan-tilt-zoom camera to view said
3 various locations.

1 15. A method as in claim 11, wherein said step
2 of calculating includes updating a background image and
3 subtracting said background image from a current video
4 image.